

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.977

Amateur Radio Newsline #977 05 May 1996

The Newsline Information and Copyright Notice is now published seperately every month. Please read this notice before using any part of Newsline in any manner. For a copy of the notice e-mail bigsteve@dorsai.org or netmail Steve Coletti @ 1:278/230 on Fidonet.

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #977 - 05/05/96

```
(*****)  
(*                                     *)  
(*               A M A T E U R       *)  
(*                                     *)  
(*               R A D I O           *)  
(*                                     *)  
(*               N E W S L I N E     *)  
(*                                     *)  
(*****)
```

The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC., formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

Editorial comments, news item and all other business should be directed to:

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
Newsline Producer & Editor

Internet E-mail: 3241437@mcimail.com
MCI E-mail: WESTRADIO
Phone: (805) 296-7180
Fax: (805) 296-7180
(Fax senders wait for voice prompt.)

Hardcopy comments or complements can be directed to:

Dale Cary, WD0AKO
Hardcopy Distribution for Newsline

Internet E-mail: wd0ako@rrnet.com
Phone: (218) 236-6324

The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary, WD0AK0 at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

=====

Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line) ..	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, Florida.....	(407) 768-7447*
Houston, Texas.....	(713) 362-4650
Conroe, Texas.....	(409) 525-6250

* The Melbourne, Florida newsline number will change from (407) 768-7447 to (407) 953-1637 effective at 6 PM, May 10, 1996.

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

=====

GEnie (RTC Bulletin Board).....	m345;1
GEnie (File Library).....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
America Online.....	
Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library	
Delphi.....	In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0
Microsoft Network.....	Amateur Radio File Library
Internet.....	In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....	
In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline	
Local BBS's.....	In the Ham Radio conferences on
Fidonet, RIME, Intelec, I-Link, AR-Net and Fringenet.	

True Speech Internet Site
=====
<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat>

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above.
To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers
automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard
weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is
given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write
to us with an S.A.S.E. at:

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You,
NEWSLINE

(*****
Some of the hams of AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE:
WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY KU8R N8DTN
W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN and many others in
the United States and around the globe!!!
(*****
[977]

Newsline report number 977 for release on Friday, May 3, 1996 to follow.

The following is a QST
=====

The FCC says goodbye to the Morse Code for ship to shore communications
and also backs away from a pilot project where those who suffer from RFI
have to pay for the repair. These stories and more on a special extended
Newsline report number 977 coming your way right now.

(*****

MARITIME CW: RIP

The Morse code has come one step closer to passing into oblivion. This, with the April 5th action by the FCC to drop the requirement that vessels equipped with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System also carry manual Morse code radiotelegraph gear.

Previously, any United States flag cargo vessel of more than 1600 gross tons and U.S. flag passenger vessels were required to carry a manual Morse code radiotelegraph installation when navigating in the open sea or on international voyages. But the older Morse code based safety system is being phased out internationally and is scheduled to be totally replaced by the more modern satellite based system on February 1, 1999. After that date, qualifying vessels won't have to carry any CW equipment if the US Coast Guard determines the vessel has the satellite based safety gear installed.

The Commission requested that Congress authorize the shift away from Morse code as a part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The change will also have a ripple effect into ham radio. After February of 1999 it will become very rare for hams to handle ship to shore emergencies using Morse code to communicate. Chances are that any maritime emergencies that ham radio involves itself in after that date will be using SSB voice or some form of data based communications.

(*****

VANITY CALL SIGN GATE I OPENS MAY 31, 1996

This is a Newsline instant update. Dateline Washington, D.C. May 1st. The FCC has announced that Gate 1 of the long awaited vanity call sign program will open on Friday, May 31st. Amateur operators who meet the eligibility standards may request a vanity call sign on or after May 31, 1996.

As previously reported, to qualify for a vanity ham radio call sign, you must hold an unexpired amateur operator and primary station license grant of the proper operator class. To request a vanity call sign for a club station, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as the license trustee.

There will be four application gates opened over a period of time to service the holders of various license classes. Since we do not have the time to outline the entire plan we might suggest that you obtain a copy of FCC Fact Sheet PR-5000 #206 for further information.

And this very important note. The FCC says that you must file your request on its special FCC Form 610-V and that legibility is critical! If the information on your application is not easy to read, you will experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want.

A \$30.00 fee is required with your Form 610-V application. Payment of the fee may be made by check payable to FCC, by bank draft, money order or credit card. If paying by credit card, you must also complete and submit FCC Form 159 with your FCC Form 610-V. The FCC warns do not send cash.

Send your application package to the:

Federal Communications Commission
Amateur Vanity Call Sign Request
P.O. Box 358924
Pittsburgh, PA
15251-5924

We'll have more for you on this, the opening of the amateur radio vanity call sign program next week.

(*****

FCC DROPS RFI PROGRAM

The FCC is admitting that trying to get the public to pay to resolve TVI and other kinds of interference, just won't fly. It has quietly end its pilot program in Florida.

The Federal Communications Commission has ended its pilot program here in Tampa, Florida, that referred consumer electronics interference cases to a local repair shop for resolution. Jim Dailey, the FCC engineer in charge in Kansas City headed up the FCC's privatization RFI task force. He says that data collected by the FCC showed the program had no takers. This, says Dailey, was because the complainants do not want to spend their money to eliminate the interference problems.

Fear may have been another factor in the failure of the program, says Roy Lewis, W4WLY. Lewis operates Vulcan Electronics in Tampa was the only shop certified by the FCC to deal with interference problems. He reports that all of the 2,000 or so complaints of RFI to televisions, stereos, telephones and even air conditioners, stemmed from unlicensed, high-power operations that the customers already had identified. He said the customers not only didn't want to pay to have the problems resolved, but that some were afraid of retaliation if a repairman went out to investigate the problem.

The big question now is what other possible interference resolution services the financially strapped FCC will suggest next. So far their only action is to make available a pamphlet on the cause of RFI that contains a cut out complaint card. No the card does not get sent to the FCC. It gets mailed to the company that made the device suffering the interference problem. If that brings no response, the FCC says to file a complaint with the Electronics Industry Association, a lobby group that represents the consumer electronics industry.

(*****

NEW STATION LIMITS

The Federal Communications Commission has raised the number of

commercial broadcast stations that any entity can own. According to the new limits, a company can own as many TV stations as it wants as long as the station's don't reach more than 35% of the nation's TV viewing households. Previously broadcasters could own only up to 12 stations, reaching up to 25% of households. The changes were designed to allow TV networks expand and compete more freely with cable networks and direct broadcast satellite systems and are a part of the new communications act signed into law earlier this year.

(*****

* * * L a t e B r e a k I n g S t o r y * * *

HAM RADIO BANNED FROM OLYMPIC VENUES BY BROADCASTERS

If you're going to the Atlanta Olympics as a spectator, leave your handheld in your hotel room.

Despite reports to the contrary from other amateur news sources, the official in charge of radio usage at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games says spectators may NOT bring handheld ham rigs or scanners to Olympic "venues," the formal name for sites where events will be held.

Mike Smalls, Chairman of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee, told CQ VHF that exceptions MAY be made for hams providing communications support for the games, but only if the appropriate officials request them. Even then, each radio will be subject to inspection, testing and approval.

"I can't afford non-coordinated transmitters," Smalls told us. "Who knows if a transmission is going to blow away a live wireless microphone or an NBC news feed?"

In summary, according to Smalls, "No scanners, no HTs, except for game support." On the other hand, cellular phones WILL be allowed, in accordance with an FCC request.

(*****

DISH OPPOSITION

Opposition is growing to an FCC mandate that says anyone can put up a tiny direct broadcast satellite dish and its the property owners that are making the noise. The Building Owners and Managers Association International has put the FCC on notice of its opposition to being forced to let anyone put up Direct Broadcast Television satellite dishes. At issue is the FCC's plan to allow the mounting of satellite antennas on a building owner's property regardless of the building owners' opposition.

BOMA is joined in its 40 page filing by the National Apartment Association, National Realty Council, Institute of Real Estate Management, International Council of Shopping Centers and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

BOMA says that any attempt by the Commission to compel building owners

to allow the placement of antennas in or on their buildings or surrounding property by third party telecommunications providers, tenants, or residents violate the owners' rights under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In addition to its constitutional claim, BOMA cites aesthetic, safety, security and structural integrity issues.

BOMA's April 15th comments closely follow those it filed last month which opposed mandating access for telecommunications providers onto private property. Most observers see this issue headed into the federal courts.

(*****

N6NHG PLEADS GUILTY

Computer super hacker Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG has pleaded guilty to charges of illegally using stolen mobile phone numbers. His April 22nd plea in Los Angeles is part of an agreement arranged by Mitnicks' attorneys with federal prosecutors in North Carolina. Mitnick was arrested in Raleigh last year after being tracked down by a San Diego computer security expert.

Under the plea bargain agreement, Mitnick also pleaded guilty to violating the terms of his probation on an earlier conviction on computer hacking charges. He could face up to 20 years in prison when he's sentenced on July 15th but Judge Marianna Pfaelzer is expected to impose a far shorter sentence.

(*****

ALLEGED NY JAMMER CAUGHT

The lawyer for a Great Neck New York ham accused of using his Amateur Radio station to reroute taxicabs and jam Long Island police communications says that his client will fight the charges.

The lawyer for a Great Neck, New York ham accused of using his Amateur Radio station to reroute taxicabs and jam Long Island police communications says that his client will fight the charges. Michael Abbey, N2LPD, a 19 year old student at Queens College was arrested on April 16th by Nassau County police who say that caught him in the act of making radio transmissions from his bedroom. Police say that he was broadcasting illegally on a frequency used by a local livery service at the time he was taken into custody.

According to the newspaper Newsday, Abbey was booked at the Sixth Precinct police station and then ordered to appear in court in Hempstead, New York on two felony counts of eavesdropping and one misdemeanor count of obstructing governmental administration.

Abbey's lawyer told Newsday that a not guilty plea will be entered at the arraignment.

If Abbey does stand trial and is convicted on all charges, he faces up

to eight years in prison.

(*****

SPOC PLANS MADE PUBLIC

If there ever is a single point of contact between the repeater coordinators and the FCC, it probably will not be what was decided at last October's repeater coordinators conclave in St. Louis, Missouri. The coordinators have finally released several documents that detail their desires and what they are asking is for ARRL funding and almost complete autonomy.

Basically, the coordinators have decided to form a national umbrella group called the National Frequency Coordinators Conference or simply N.F.C.C. Its similar in many ways to the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators except that N.F.C.C. will concentrate on issues of interest to repeater owner operators and the coordinators that assign them their operating frequencies.

NFCC has completed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that will be submitted to the American Radio Relay League. The Leagues Board of Directors will then vote on the proposal when they meet next summer. Until that time, the N.F.C.C. will continue to work on defining its role in coordination issues and the part it will play in overall ham radio society.

(*****

NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME RULE

San Francisco communications attorney Phil Kane, N6SP tells Newsline that the FCC broadcast rule used to suspend the license of Irvin Foret Jr., KB5UJD of Metairie, Louisiana for two years was not the Prime Time rule as we reported. Rather, it is a regulation known as the Safe Harbor ruling.

Kane says that the prime time rule limits the amount of network vs. non-network television programming you get to see every evening. The "Safe Harbor" rule invoked in the case of the Louisiana ham is the law that sets the hours when broadcasters can use indecent language in their programming.

And Phil Kane, N6SP knows this law quite well. Before going into private law practice he served as the District Director and Engineer in Charge of the FCC's San Francisco Office.

(*****

HAM RADIO HERO

The March 4th edition of Time Magazine has named Richard Eastman, K10JH, of Billerica, Massachusetts, was one of Time magazine's Local Heroes. The magazine says that while managing a CompuServe forum, Eastman became aware that one of the participants, the Rev. Kenneth Walker of Scotland, thought he might be having a stroke. Eastman got Walker to type his telephone number and then contacted police in Scotland. They quickly reached Walker and provided first aid. Eastman says that this was a simple thing, with an

interesting twist since it was 3,000 miles away.

(*****

LAWRENCE NAMED NASA MANAGER IN RUSSIA

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII has been named to replace Charles Precourt, KB5YSQ as the NASA manager of operational activities at Star City in Russia. As Director of Operations for the Russia operation, Lawrence will support training and preparations of NASA astronauts at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center. She also will be the primary link between NASA and the Russian center's management, coordinating all training and other operations involving NASA or contractor personnel in Star City.

(*****

JAS 2 LAUNCH

Reports from the Japan Amateur Radio League indicate that the launch of JAS-2 is expected about mid August. This newest Japanese amateur satellite is to ride as a secondary payload along with the ADEOS spacecraft.

(*****

UK AWARDS

Also from overseas, the Annual General Meeting of the Worked All Britain Awards Group will be held at the Drayton Manor Rally on the 12th of May. Worked All Britain members wishing to make nominations for the committee or proposals for the agenda should send their suggestions to J. R. Thornnley, G1NUS.

(*****

HAMVENTION BUSES

The 1996 Dayton Hamvention is now only three weeks away. As anyone who has ever been to the Hamvention knows, at times it is a lot easier to drive to Dayton than it is to park your car. But there is some relief this year. Hamvention General Chairman Ken Allen, KB8KE says to take the bus and leave the driving to us:

"We listened to folks last year when they had a few difficulties with some of the bus service. We have done some things this year to improve that, streamline it a little bit. Make sure that the waits will be a little shorter. A little more uniform. We got agreements at this point with 22 properties in the general Dayton area, most of them, of course close in, that will be selling the bus tickets this year. Again this year one round trip will be \$3.00 this year. Tickets available at the hotel desk. KB8KE

The audio of Ken Allen you have been listening to the past two weeks was

supplied by Hap Holly, KC9RP of Chicago's Radio Amateur Information Network. This year in addition to recording many of the Hamvention seminar sessions Hap will be hosting a special session of his own for newcomers to ham radio. His list of guests include several well known hams. This includes the editor of a very popular ham radio magazine and the co-founder of one of the nations most powerful repeater coordination groups.

(*****

DX

In DX, 6 meters is the hot band these days and not just here in the good old USA. Neil Carr, G0JHC reports the first E skip opening of the season from Northern England to Italy came on April 21st. The Italian stations were S9+ according to G0JHC.

And Bill Sattler, N0XX says that On April 22nd there was a half an hour of double hop from Oregon to Florida. The only station worked was N0KBH but Bill also heard was K4SC and about a dozen others. The problem was getting through the single-hop stations they were working, plus the fact that they were mainly all on top of one another on 50.125 MHz.

(*****

NEW UK CALL SIGNS

On the high frequency bands, the British Radiocommunications Agency has presented the first of the new "M" series callsigns at a ceremony in Bristol on Saturday the 30th of March. M0AAA was issued to the Reading Novices' Amateur Aerial Association, with the license being presented to club members Paul Sayer, G0VKT, and Ben Clarkson, G7WHO. Ben, aged 14, recently upgraded from his Novice callsign 2E1DHA, and is an active member of the Reading and District Amateur Radio Club. The first "M" series Class B callsign, M1AAA, was presented to Ian Oliver.

(*****

LAST CALL FOR 1996 MCGAN SILVER ANTENNA AWARD NOMINATIONS

If you're planning to nominate someone for this year's Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, the deadline is May 31, 1996. The McGan award goes to a ham who has achieved exceptional public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio. The award is sponsored jointly by the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association and ARRL.

All nominations must be accompanied by an official entry form, available from ARRL's Public Relations department, at (860) 594-0328.

(*****

YHOTY

This note to those who have sent for nominating forms for the Newsline 1996 Young Ham of the Year Award or who have downloaded a form from one of

the electronic data sites. If you have a completed form and a nominating package and are holding it back in hope that your nominee will do one more great thing, please don't wait. Send it in now.

The committee judging this years award is spread out across the nation. Once a nomination is received it has to be duplicated and sent to the committee. That takes a lot of time and the more last minute nominations we receive means that each will get a lot less time to be judged.

Some hams have told us that they want their nominee to get credit for working the 1996 ARRL Field Day contest. Take it from us, if you have a good candidate, his or her participation in Field Day will not weigh heavily on the judges decision. Routine activities that most hams participate in are not all that important in judging an award such as this. We ask that you please begin sending in your nominating packages today.

(*****

GENTRY RETIRES

The man credited as being the father of the modern Amateur Radio repeater has retired from the ham radio scene. On April 4th, Art Gentry, W6MEP and his wife Millie, K6JJN left the smog of Los Angeles, California for the splendor of Oregon. Art, who is 90 years young developed the first practical voice repeater system in the early 1950's while working as an engineer for Don Lee Broadcasting Company. Using World War 2 surplus parts, Gentry fashioned a 2 meter receiver that would still hear other signals on the band even though a high power transmitter was retransmitting what the receiver heard on a frequency nearby. By the end of the '50's decade, Gentry had assembled and put on the air K6MYK -- an AM repeater that was to be the granddaddy of every FM repeater on the air today.

Art Gentry's repeater, using his personal W6MEP call sign is still on the air. Since the late '60's it has been an FM machine operating on the frequency pair of 147.24 and 147.84 MHz. About two years ago Art turned the day to day operation of the repeater over to Bill Arens, N6NMC. Arens tells Newsline that the repeater will keep the W6MEP call sign as long as Art is alive. This says Arens as a lasting tribute to the man who made repeaters available to all hams, many of whom have never even heard the name Art Gentry or the call sign, W6MEP.

(*****

And that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk, we at Newsline say 73 and we thank you for listening.

(* * Newsline is copyright 1996 & all rights are reserved.

--